

Celebrating longevity

Department of Administration employees honored for years of service



Gov. Brownback and Acting Sec. Shipman with Karen Berroth, above left; Debbie Welton above right; Brownback and Kathleen Hackett, below right.

Governor Sam Brownback joined with the Kansas Department of Administration on Sept. 10, in honoring state employees who have served the state for more than 40 years.



Brownback and KDOA Acting Secretary Sarah L. Shipman awarded an official service pin celebrating the longevity of each honoree who completed either 40 or 50 years of service during the past fiscal year 2015. The ceremony was held in the first floor rotunda of the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka. Two individuals were honored for 50 years of service. They were Buddy Johns from Wichita State University and Kathleen Hackett from the Department of Administration's Office of Personnel Services.

Honored for 40 years of service were Karen Berroth of the Office of Financial Management and Debbie Welton from Printing.



October is United Way campaign month

It's October and that time of year again for the Capital Campaign for the United Way of Greater Topeka. The Department of Administration is participating in the fund drive with another tasty edition of the Chili Cook-off.

Divisions will begin distributing the pledge forms to employees starting Oct. 1. The forms are due back to division directors, who will give the forms to John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, by Oct. 30 in Suite 500 of the Curtis State Office Building.

Employees may elect how they would like to target their payroll deductions, how much and how frequently. Once again, the United Way is offering the Caring Club Card program for individuals who contribute a minimum of \$192 to the United Way of Greater Topeka Community Impact Fund or any United Way Impact Area. The cards entitle employees to discounts and specials at numerous restaurants and businesses in Shawnee County. This year, the cards will also be honored in Douglas County, Wyandotte County, and Greater Kansas City. For more information about the card or the campaign, go to www.unitedwaytopeka.org.

In conjunction with the Chili Cook-off, the Department of Administration is holding a silent auction of gift baskets during the Oct. 29 event in the Statehouse. Themes include several geared toward children, football tailgating, the Royals, movie night and fiesta. More details on each basket will be announced throughout the month.

Also, check your email for updates and flyers on events being held by other state agencies throughout the Capitol Complex.

2015 Chili Cook-off

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29

Kansas Statehouse Rotunda

\$5 per person

Proceeds benefit

the United Way of Greater Topeka

Silent auction of gift baskets prepared by Department of Administration employees



Join us for a feast that matches your personality—spicy, sweet, hearty, or just plain traditional. All proceeds from this event will be given to the United Way of Greater Topeka. Take advantage of the opportunity to feed yourself, knowing that this donation will help children, adults and elderly in our community.



WANT TO HELP?

The Department of Administration is involved in a number of volunteer activities. For more information, go to the Community Service link on our home page at <http://www.admin.ks.gov/>

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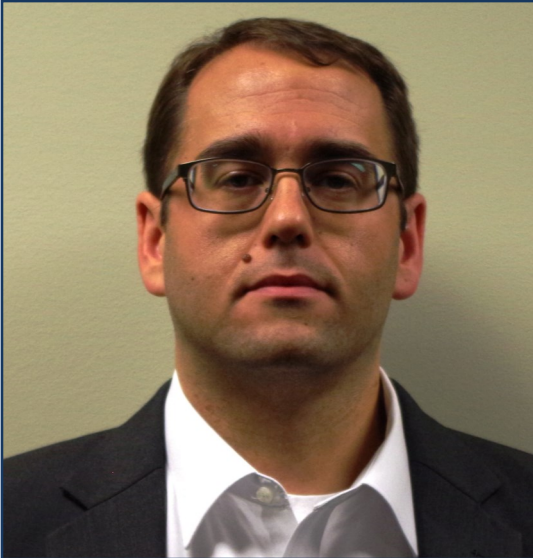


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Meet Philip Michael



Office of Chief Counsel

Position:

Staff Attorney

Job Duties:

Working on contracts, litigation and advising departments within the agency

How long you've been with D of A:

Not quite two years

Favorite part of your job:

Being able to accomplish something that will impact how the agency works

Interesting fact about you:

I lived abroad for a year in England. I only came back because they made me.

Favorite hobby:

Fishing

How you would spend an ideal day off:

Fishing



A note from the Secretary...

A milestone in the storied history of the Kansas Statehouse will be crossed this month with the final departure of the general contractor responsible for the building's renovation.

The final bill for the work performed by JE Dunn Construction Company will be closed and the Statehouse will return to management by the Department of Administration. The \$332 million renovation project was approved by Legislators in 2000 with the goal of restoring the historic landmark to the grandeur of the early 1900s.

I think it's safe to say that the mission was accomplished.

For those who don't remember, by the time the project was approved, the building was in need of drastic attention. Electrical and HVAC systems were woefully outdated and the building was showing its age inside and out. Repairs and refurbishing efforts over the years had masked much of the building's original beauty, from paintings to stonework and woodwork. Even the copper dome and roof, which took the brunt of a tornado's blast in the 1960s, was leaking and needing replaced.

So an army of thousands of artisans, craftsmen and tradesmen went to work to uncover the past and bring the Statehouse into the 21st century. Wing by wing, floor by floor, the work went on for more than a decade. All the while, the building remained open to the public and the Kansas Legislature continued to meet.

While the House had been restored in the 1990s, the Senate was scheduled for renovation, forcing Legislators to move to the Old Supreme Court Room during a special session in 2005 to deal with school finance issues. Functions also moved to Docking State Office Building, such as House offices and committee rooms.

All that work is done. Legislators have new offices and committee rooms, the battered green dome has been replaced with a blanket of copper, and thousands of visitors now pass through a newly created center where they view a map of Kansas, as well as artifacts from the state's 154-year history.

While the debate will continue about the cost of the project, there's no question the Kansas Statehouse is a treasure in which all Kansans can take pride. If you haven't yet, take some time to tour the building with your friends and family. You will be glad you did.

Sarah